

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following paragraph:

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention is directed, in general, to a contrast agent comprising a tetraazacyclododecane ligand and comprising a macrocyclic ring and a paramagnetic metal ion coordinated to the tetraazacyclododecane ligand. Pendent arms R, R', R'' and R''' attached to a ring nitrogen. The pendent arms have the general formula:  $-C^*HR^1R^2$  and for three or more of the pendant arms a chirality of the carbon atoms C' are identical for each of three or more of the pendant arms. The R<sup>1</sup> group is larger than hydrogen and R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of: an alcohol, amides, a carboxylate, phosphinates and a phosphonate. One or more substituents R<sup>6</sup> is a group larger than a methyl group and is located on one or more ring carbons.